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Message Text

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53
ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 OPR-02

AID-20 PC-04 SY-10 RSR-01 /114 W
---------- 006910
R 201320 Z JUN 73
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8085
INFO USCINCSO
AMCONSUL CALI UNN
AMCONSUL UMEDELLIN UNN

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E O 11652: NA
TAGS: ASEC, PINT CO

SUBJ: KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN CONSULS AND/ OR VICE CONSULS
IN CALI AND MEDELLIN

REF STATE 118036 BOGOTA 2406, 3871 AND 4579

1. BOGOTA 2406, 3871 AND 4579 PROVIDE BACKGROUND ON THE ELN URBAN NET COURT MARTIAL NOW TAKING PLACE IN EL SOCORRO, THE DEPARTMENT OF SANTANDER.

2. THE COURT MARTIAL HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY DELAYS, RECESSES, APPEALS AND DENUNCIATIONS BY DEFENDANTS, THEIR LAWYERS AND SENIOR MIL AUTHORITIES, AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESTIMATE DATE OF SENTENCING OR PROBABLE SENTENCES.

3. IT SEEMED THAT THE INITIAL PHASE OF THE TRIAL DURING WHICH WRITEN TESTIMONY IS PRESENTED WAS ABOUT TO CONCLUDE, BUT MIL AUTHORITIES ADDED EIGHT NEW DEFENDANTS TO THE SOCORRO CASE ON
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JUNE 3. THE NEW DEFENDANTS ARE ACCUSED OF BELONGING TO THE ELN AND PARTICIPATING IN ELN ATTACKS IN RURAL ANTIOQUIA. THE TRIAL, HOWEVER HAS FOCUSSED PRIMARILY ON THE ALLEGED URBAN NET OF THE ELN AND INTEGRATION OF THE NEW DEFENDANTS INTO THE COURT MARTIAL PROCEEDINGS CAN THEREFORE BE EXPECTED TO ENTAIL SUBSTANTIAL FURTHER
DELAYS.

4. OF THE 99 PRISONERS ORIGINALLY HELD AS PRESUMED MEMBERS OF THE ELN URBAN NET, 57 HAVE ALREADY BEEN RELEASED FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE OR BEEN GIVEN PROVISIONAL LIBERTY BECAUSE THEY HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED IN PRE TRIAL AND TRIAL DETENTION THE SENTENCES WHICH THEY MIGHT HAVE RECEIVED. THERE ARE THEREFORE 50 PRISONERS STILL ON TRIAL. THESE INCLUDE PROFESSIONALS, FIGURES FROM THE WORLD OF ARTS AND LETTERS, CAMPESINOS AND ALLEGED RURAL GUERRILLAS. IN ADDITION APPROX 90 ALLEGED ELN MEMBERS ARE BEING TRIED IN ABSENTIA.

5. COMMENT. WHILE MIL AUTHORITIES ARE UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO GET SOCORRO COURT MARTIAL OVER WITH, INCREASING LEGAL COMPLI-CATIONS AND PROTESTS, WHICH APPEAR TO UNDERMINE THE LEGALITY OF THE PROCEEDINGS, MAKE IT PROBABLE THAT THE TRIAL WILL DRAG ON FOR SOME TIME. THE SITUATION IS SO CONFUSED THAT WE CANNOT ES-TIMATE WHAT THE SENTENCES WILL BE ALTHOUGH ALL THE DEFENDANTS ARE CHARGED WITH REBELLION, WHICH CARRIES MINIMUM SENTENCE OF SIX MONTHS AND SOME ARE CHARGED WITH HOMICIDE, KIDNAPPING AND ARMED ROBBERY ALL OF WHICH CARRRY HEAVY SENTENCES.

6. THE CONSULS IN MEDELLIN CALI AND BOGOTA HAVE BEEN ADVISED AND ALERTED TO THE SITUATION BY BOTH THE EMB AND COLOMBIAN POLICE/ MIL OFFICIALS.

7. TEMPORARY PERSONAL POLICE ESCORTS FOR THE CONSULS IN MEDELLIN AND CALI ARE BEING ARRANGED BUT NOT YET FINALIZED. ALL AMERICAN MEMBERS OF THE THREE CONSULATES IN COLOMBIA HAVE BEEN BRIEFED BY THEIR CONSULS TO TAKE ELEMENTARY SECURITY PRECAUTIONS IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR DAILY ROUTINE.

8. WILL KEEP THE DEPT INFORMED IF FURTHER INFO DEVELOPS.
SACCIO

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Subject: KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN CONSULS AND/ OR VICE CONSULS IN CALI AND MEDELLIN REF STATE 118036 BOGOTA 2406, 3871 AND 4579
TAGS: ASEC, PINT, CO
To: ARA
CALI
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